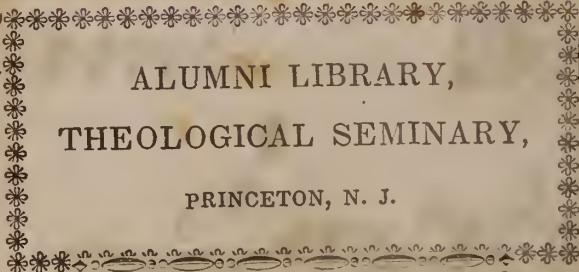


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THE  
AFRICAN REPOSITORY,

AND

COLONIAL JOURNAL.

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VOL. V.

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**THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.**

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JAMES C. DUNN, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER; GEORGETOWN, D. C.

# MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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THE  
**AFRICAN REPOSITORY,**  
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**Review.**

*Researches in South Africa; illustrating the Civil, Moral, and Religious condition of the Native Tribes: including Journals of the Author's Travels in the Interior; together with detailed accounts of the progress of the Christian Missions, exhibiting the influence of Christianity in promoting Civilization. By the Rev. JOHN PHILIP, D. D., Superintendent of the Missions of the London Missionary Society at the Cape of Good Hope, &c. &c. London, 1828. 2 vols. 8vo.*

(Continued from p. 233.)

THE Colony of the Cape of Good Hope was restored to the Dutch by the peace of Amiens in 1802. The interval between the departure of the English garrison at Algoa Bay, and the arrival of the Dutch in 1803, was to the missionaries a time of great trial and perplexity. General Dundas, knowing their danger, used every argument to persuade them to suspend their labours; and when he could not prevail upon them, "he considered us," says Dr. Vanderkemp, "as dead men." As the last effort of his friendship for them, seeing that they had a higher regard for the interests of their charge, than for their own safety, he invested Dr. Vanderkemp with authority to retreat with his Hottentots, if necessary, to Fort Frederick, till the arrival of the Dutch authorities. It was not till after they had almost miraculously repelled several furious attacks, that they availed themselves of this privilege. When they were within the fort,

the Boors flattered themselves that they would make common cause with them against their enemies; but when they discovered their mistake on this point, they did every thing to render them uncomfortable, and to defeat the objects of their mission. Dr. Vanderkemp, though strongly attached to the English government, hailed the arrival of the Dutch authorities as a desirable event. The new governor, General Janssens, arrived at Algoa Bay in May, 1803. With him he had been intimate in early life, and they had been school-fellows together.

“On the arrival of General Janssens, the frontier Boors proposed that all the Hottentots should be seized; that every individual among them should have a chain put upon his legs; and that they should be distributed among them as slaves. The state of public opinion in Europe would not have admitted, had the General been so inclined, a method of enslaving the people, of so direct a nature; and the proposal was rejected with becoming spirit. Not at all discouraged by their defeat, a fresh objection was found against the missionary institution, in the change which had taken place in the colonial government, in having passed from the hands of the English to those of the Dutch. It was insinuated that a mission to evangelize the Hottentots, conducted by Englishmen, was pregnant with danger to the Dutch government of the colony. This objection, which was too subtle to have originated with the Boors, had been suggested to them by some of their friends at head-quarters; and it was amusing enough to hear men, who could not read their own language, endeavouring to alarm the mind of the governor with an enumeration of the evils to be dreaded from the old threadbare story of *‘imperium in imperio.’*”

“In a letter to the directors of the London Missionary Society, on this subject, Dr. Vanderkemp alludes to it in the following terms:—

“It was an easy matter to convince the brave and philanthropic Governor Janssens of the futility of the objection, and to show that our undertaking was entirely separated from all national views and concerns; and that your direction, being entirely restricted to spiritual purposes, did not even in the least degree, affect, much less relax the authority which government has a right to exercise over all its subjects, any more than the filial obedience due to a father, or tutor, infringes the rights of a sovereign over a son, or pupil, residing in his dominions. But it was not so easy to eradicate the inveterate prejudices against our work among the heathen out of the stony hearts of more barbarous inhabitants; and it was evident, that our relation to English benefactors was only a pretext to give vent to a deeper rooted enmity against God, his Christ, and the extension of his kingdom of love and grace among the heathen.’

“The governor was satisfied with the reasonings of Doctor Vanderkemp, and saw through the interested clamours of his enemies; but as the colo-

nists were opposed to the object of his mission, in order in some measure to obviate this opposition, it was proposed by his excellency, and agreed to by the missionary, that he should correspond with the London Missionary Society through the medium of the Dutch Missionary Society.

"It had become necessary and desirable that the institution should be removed as soon as possible from Fort Frederick; and, at the request of Dr. Vanderkemp, General Janssens had agreed to grant him another place for his establishment.

"The unsuitableness of the present site of the institution has been remarked by almost every visitor; but no blame attaches to the missionaries on this account. The place was selected by the colonists, who were subsequently in the habit of boasting, that they selected that spot, and recommended it to General Janssens as the most suitable place in the neighbourhood for the object in view; and this for a purpose distinctly stated by them, "*that the Hottentots might not find any means of subsistence in the vicinity, excepting in the service of the farmers.*" In this particular instance the missionaries had no alternative; and to obviate their objections against accepting it, they were informed that it was not intended that they should remain any longer there than the time requisite for providing a more suitable place for them.

"After the site of the institution had been fixed upon the governor requested Dr. Vanderkemp to give it a name; observing, at the same time, that he exceedingly disliked scriptural names, and that he hoped he would not give it a name from the Bible. Pausing a moment, and recollecting that he had preached on the preceding sabbath, from Genesis xxxv. 2, 3, the missionary named it "Betheldorp." The governor's knowledge of the scriptures was not sufficient to enable him at the time to detect the irony conveyed in this circumstance; and, next day, when he came to know it, and when he found the laugh turned against him, he acknowledged that it was perfectly fair."

In January, 1804, the institution was visited by the Commissary General De Mist, accompanied by Dr. Lichtenstein, tutor to one of his sons. Lichtenstein gives the following account of their first interview with Dr. Vanderkemp:

"In the very hottest part of the morning we saw a waggon, such as is used in husbandry, drawn by four meagre oxen, coming slowly along the sandy downs. Vanderkemp sat upon a plank laid across it, without a hat, his venerable bald head exposed to the burning rays of the sun. He was dressed in a threadbare black coat, waistcoat, and breeches, without shirt, neckcloth, or stockings, and leather sandals bound upon his feet, the same as are worn by the Hottentots.

"The commissary-general hastened to meet and receive him with the utmost kindness; he descended from his car, and approached with slow and

measured steps, presenting to our view a tall, meagre, yet venerable figure. In his serene countenance might be traced remains of former beauty; and in his eye, still full of fire, were plainly to be discerned the powers of mind which had distinguished his early years. Instead of the usual salutations, he uttered a short prayer, in which he begged a blessing upon our chief and his company, and the protection of heaven during the remainder of our journey. He then accompanied us into the house, when he entered into conversation freely upon many subjects, without any superciliousness or affected solemnity."

Doctor Lichtenstein describes Bethelsdorp as exceedingly wretched in its soil, houses and inhabitants. And though he admits, as he must, that Dr. Vanderkemp was a man of learning, yet he even brings that circumstance, as well as most others, to bear against his qualifications for the employment in which Providence and his own choice had placed him. He ends, like most other assailants of character, with a kind of ambiguous and very general commendation, under which he himself might take refuge, if necessary, to escape the stigma of a slanderer. Lichtenstein's misrepresentations, like many such at the present day, went the rounds of the public journals, which thus contributed to hand down to posterity, as an object of pity and ridicule, one of the great benefactors of our race. Yet the name of Lichtenstein will live only till it loses its injurious hold on that of Vanderkemp. Dr. Philip closes this subject with the following admirable remarks:

"The prejudice such statements have a tendency to excite against missions, is, perhaps, one of the least evils to which they ordinarily give rise. The tendency of indiscriminate censure, unqualified abuse, and studied misrepresentation, is to render such as are friendly to missions incredulous, as it respects all the statements made by strangers, which give an unfavourable view of particular missions; and, under the shade of a scepticism generated in this way, abuse and corruption will, in many cases, creep in, and produce irreparable injury, before their supporters will allow themselves to suppose them in any danger, or that the unfavourable reports propagated respecting them, are any thing else than calumnies raised against them by their enemies."

In February, 1805, General Janssens, influenced too much by the colonists, issued a proclamation, by which the missionaries were considerably restricted in the sphere of their labours, and among other things, were forbidden to visit the Caffers; though parties of that nation repeatedly visited Bethelsdorp afterwards, and when the state of the colony permitted it, resided some



time at the institution. So great was the love and veneration of these simple people for Dr. Vanderkemp, that when a party of plundering Hottentots, who had attacked his institution, took refuge among them, they put three of them to death, and the others would have shared the same fate if they had not escaped. Through his instrumentality they were taught to prize highly the blessings of civilization and the gospel.

“On the 18th of April, 1804, Dr. Vanderkemp had written to the governor, stating that his conscience would not permit him any longer to encourage Hottentots to enter into the service of the farmers, because of the cruelty and injustice with which they were treated, without any relief being afforded them by the magistrates. Particulars were given, and the governor ordered the landdrost to inquire into the complaints,—but nothing was done; and the farmers were so incensed at the doctor, that one of them went to Cape Town, and, without ceremony, requested from the governor leave to shoot him. General Janssens replied, by asking significantly, ‘If he had seen the gallows on his entrance into the town?’”

“Again, on the 19th of April, 1805, Vanderkemp, in reply to a friendly and familiar letter from Governor Janssens, expresses himself in the following terms:—‘You acknowledge the great wrong which the colonists, *perhaps here and there*, do to the Hottentots. This expression, Governor, shows that you are still uninformed of the true situation of things in this country, or at least in the Uitenhage district. Not ‘*perhaps*,’ and ‘*here and there*,’ but very certainly, and pretty nearly in all parts, does this oppression prevail; nor is it only particular inhabitants, but the landdrosts themselves, from whom the oppressed ought to find protection, who make themselves guilty in this respect.’”

The English government, under General Dundas, was offensive to the Boors, particularly on account of the favour shown to the Hottentots; and they expected that with the return of the Dutch government, the mission of Dr. Vanderkemp would be suppressed, and that the devoted Hottentots would be left entirely at their disposal. Their first attempts, for this purpose, with Governor Janssens, were too gross to be successful; but their reiterated clamours at last prevailed; and in 1805 the missionaries were summoned to Cape Town to answer some charges brought against them, and were detained nine months in a state of inactivity; the Governor refusing either to give them a trial or to dismiss them.

“Wearied with their inactivity, they had formed a resolution to leave

\* Transactions of the London Missionary Society, vol. ii. p. 241.

the country, and were only prevented from putting this resolution into practice, by the arrival of the English fleet in Table Bay, on the 4th of January, 1806. On the 20th, the town was surrendered to the British.—The change which this occurrence made in their circumstances was sensibly felt. General Baird, the new governor, favoured their views; and, considering it their duty to continue to devote themselves to the instruction of the Hottentots, they soon returned to Bethelsdorp, and resumed their beloved work.

“During the absence of Vanderkemp and his coadjutor in Cape Town, their place had been ably supplied by Mrs. de Smidt (or Smith), of Cape Town. At the period the missionaries were summoned to the seat of government, it was apprehended that they would not be allowed to resume their labours at Bethelsdorp; and it was under this impression, and to preserve the institution, that this meritorious woman, in the fifty-fifth year of her age, disposed of her property, and relinquished the comforts of civilized society, to take upon her the management of it. The importance she attached to the education of youth, the success which had attended her labours in Cape Town in that department, the talents for which she was distinguished, the high respectability of her character, and her affectionate zeal, qualified her in an eminent degree, for the duties of her new station.

“Her efforts succeeded in bringing together many of the children of the people to the reading-school; and at the time she was superintending the school in which she had collected the parents and the children, that they might be taught to read, she formed and conducted a school of industry, which was of essential service to the institution. While she was exerting her influence to impart to the minds of the people a taste for instruction, reviving and improving the reading-school, conducting her school of industry, visiting the people in their houses and teaching them the decencies of life, conversing with the females apart, and endeavouring to impress their minds with the power of religion,—assembling with them in their social meetings, and expounding to them the word of God,—she seemed to pay as much attention to each of those objects as if it had occupied her exclusive regard, and in the multiplicity of her avocations it could not be said that one of them suffered by her neglect.

“During the time she was at Bethelsdorp, she had the satisfaction of seeing several of the females receive the first principles of the Christian character; and several, who afterwards became members of the mission church, ascribed their first serious impressions to her labours.

“She remained a twelvemonth at Bethelsdorp after the return of the missionaries. Her character and labours were highly appreciated by them; and it was the anxious wish of all that she should remain; but her absence was too greatly felt in the extensive sphere of usefulness she had formerly occupied, to allow her to comply with their wishes, particularly as the missionaries had now resumed their labours; and, having accomplish-

ed the object she had proposed to herself at this station, she returned to Cape Town. Here she continued till 1821, when she entered into her rest, after a series of active exertions in the cause of benevolence, which has rendered her memory blessed, and made her death to be felt as a loss to the whole colony."

Dr. Vanderkemp, having learned by experience, that the human race cannot be raised at once from a savage to a civilized state, but that their progress, as a whole, must be gradual, going on from age to age, adopted the important measure of qualifying native instructors; so that improvements, being rooted in the minds of leading individuals, might ultimately be extended to the minds of the whole community.

"While Vanderkemp saw enough to encourage him in his labours, by the partial success which attended them in the first stage of a mission to a savage people, or in the first generation which assumed the Christian name, it would, however, be unreasonable to expect that we should find among them that sense of propriety which shrinks from the appearance of evil; that modesty, which instinctively retires from danger; and that purity of mind and manners, which is expected, where the gospel has erected its standard, among a religious and a cultivated people.

"While the following passage, from an admirable preface to the life of Mrs. Savage, written by Mr. Jay, discovers an intimate acquaintance with human nature, it sheds a ray of light upon the state of society among the Hottentots at the period we are considering, and shows the nature of some of those trials which a missionary has to lay his account with, either when his own labours are successful, or where he may have been called to reap where others have bestowed labour.

"'Coarseness and freedom of manners,' says this author, 'are too often the result of former viciousness, of which the individuals themselves are not aware, but which expose them to temptation in their social, especially female, intercourse.'—'Moral and virtuous habits produce delicacy, and impose restraint. Former scenes of guilt will often revive in the imagination; and though they are not entertained there, yet by passing through the mind they defile it, and distress it. I have heard more than one pious character confess the pain and injury he has suffered from this quarter, even in his public and private devotions, and who would have given the world to be free from the shocks he received from the hauntings of the ghosts of his old iniquities.'—'I never knew a professor of religion, or a preacher of the word, who fell by certain temptations, but had been, previously to his connexion with the Christian world, the victim of vice.'

"An individual of a superior order of mind may be found amongst an uneducated people; a few specimens of good workmanship may be produced

where no trade is followed; a few patriots may be seen struggling against the corruptions of a country sinking into ruin; a few individuals may be selected from a savage tribe, and cultivated, while the tribe itself is left in a state of nature: but we must look to the rising generation, trained up in our schools under a disciplinary education, as the efficient instruments necessary for the promulgation of the gospel, and the elevation of the body of the people."

The English government was now restored; but the reanimated hopes of the missionaries soon met with bitter reverses; for as the Hottentots themselves remarked, "they were not the same English that they were under General Dundas."—The Hottentots aided the government in suppressing the insurrections of the Boors, and when this was effectually done, the government, in gratitude for such services, united with the Boors, to oppress the Hottentots, and reduce them to a state of perpetual dependence and servitude. These *atrocities* called forth the vehement remonstrances of Dr. Vanderkemp. In less than a year from his return to Bethelsdorp, he thus writes to the Directors of the London Missionary Society.

"I think our enemies have in view to accomplish their design, not by expelling us out of the colony, or by a formal prohibition of our missionary work, but by teasing, and gradually confining us more and more to a narrow sphere of activity, in hope that, by repeated trials, we shall be wearied out, and disposed at length to abandon our station, and leave them masters of the field."

"The following extract of a letter, dated May 21, 1808, from Dr. Vanderkemp to the landdrost of the district of Uitenhage, may be taken as a specimen of some of the grievances of which he complains in this place:—

'The bearers, Dansken Klaas and Hendrik Soldaat, complain bitterly that their wives and children are forcibly detained by their former master and mistress, Frans Greeff and Mrs. Suckling; and that, together with two other Hottentot women they were, by order of the last, violently taken up and carried away from the public road. Such outrages call loudly to heaven for justice! I hope, and respectfully request, that it may please you to procure these four unhappy sufferers the enjoyment of that liberty, to which by nature, and the laws of this country, they are entitled: and I doubt not that you will at once perceive the necessity of 'putting a stop to these and similar excesses, which, being left unpunished, daily increase in number and atrocity, and render this country an execration to every stranger, in whom the least spark of humanity is not entirely extinguished.'

Dr. Vanderkemp's spirited letters to the government, resulted only in the appointment of a commissioner, Colonel Collins,

to visit the frontier districts; and this redoubtable commissioner exerted himself to perpetuate the grievances of which the Doctor complained; and thus the evils that he was sent to inquire into, under the pretence of providing a remedy, were only aggravated beyond endurance.

“After the removal of General Dundas from the Cape of Good Hope, under whose enlightened auspices Dr. Vanderkemp began his missionary exertions at Algoa Bay, the history of his labours is that of one continued struggle to protect the people and the missionary institution of Bethelsdorp against the measures of the local authorities of the district of Uitenhage. During this arduous struggle, of which his correspondence affords sufficient evidence, he did not complain in private only—he presented his grievances before the colonial government; and the following extract, copied from a letter written only a few months before his death, will show how little he gained by his exertions:—“I would go any where,” he exclaims, “to escape from my present situation: I cannot remain much longer at Bethelsdorp; my spirits are broken, and I am bowed down by the landdrost Cuyler’s continual oppressions of the Hottentots.”

“About this time a letter from Mr. Read to the Directors, complaining of cruelties committed by the Christians (so called) upon the Hottentots, in the neighbourhood of Bethelsdorp, attracted the notice of the Governor, who ordered the landdrost Cuyler to summon Mr. Read before him, and to investigate the source of those complaints. Mr. Read readily obeyed the summons, and laid before him several cases of cruelty and of murder. Mr. Read also wrote to the Governor, expressing his willingness to lay the facts before his Excellency. The Governor accordingly requested both Mr. Read and Dr. Vanderkemp to appear before him at Cape Town. They immediately obeyed the summons; and produced such evidence of intolerable oppressions as satisfied him that a strict investigation ought to take place. A special commission was appointed by the Earl of Caledon, for the above purpose; but, before the investigation could take place, Doctor Vanderkemp was called to make his appearance before another tribunal.

“The solemn time had arrived, when this distinguished individual was to be released from his labours, and called up to the joy of his Lord. On the morning of Saturday, Dec. 7th, 1811, he expounded a chapter with much freedom; after which, finding himself indisposed, he said to a venerable mother in Israel, who had formerly resided at the settlement in Bethelsdorp, ‘Oh! Mrs. Smith, I find myself extremely weak; I should be glad to have an opportunity to settle my own affairs.’ But, alas! this opportunity was not afforded. He was seized the same evening with a cold shivering; a fever ensued, and he retired to his bed. From that bed he rose no more. His disorder rapidly advanced, notwithstanding the use of suitable means; and his surrounding friends could not but entertain the most painful fore-

bodings of the fatal result. It might have been hoped that a man who had devoted so many years of active life to the service of his Lord, and whose lips had fed such multitudes with spiritual knowledge, would have been enabled to instruct and strengthen his afflicted friends with his dying testimony to the truth and excellency of that holy gospel, to promote which he had made such uncommon sacrifices. But so great was the violence of his disorder, that he was rendered almost incapable of speaking; a lethargic heaviness suppressed his powers, and it was with great difficulty he could be prevailed upon even to answer a question. When one of the friends, however, who called upon him a day or two before his decease, asked him, What was the state of his mind?—his short, but emphatic and satisfactory answer was—‘All is well.’ And in reply to a similar inquiry—‘Is it light or dark with you?’ he said ‘Light!’ Light, in the best sense, it doubtless was. The light of his Redeemer’s countenance illuminated the darksome valley of the shadow of death, the harbinger of that brighter light which is sown for the righteous,—that gladness which awaits the upright in heart.”

Thus ended the life of Vanderkemp; who though stigmatized like other original characters, and unbending reformers, with the charge of enthusiasm, bigotry, and eccentricity, will never fail to have ample justice done him by posterity, as well as the multitude of those, who, while he was living, abused and injured him.

“Dr. Vanderkemp was certainly one of the most extraordinary characters of his age; his natural talents were of a high order, and in him they were united with intellectual and moral qualities, which fitted him for great exertions. Among scholars he maintained an eminent rank; he could read and write in sixteen different languages; the Latin was as familiar to him as his own vernacular tongue; the criticisms he has left behind him on the Greek and Hebrew text of the Scriptures, written in Greek and Hebrew, showed that he had excelled in sacred literature; he had also acquired considerable skill in Armenian, Arabic, Persic, and Syriac. Among his books, I found a copy of Bayle’s dictionary, with the margins covered with notes written in French, which showed great metaphysical acuteness; and several works in the German language, with notes in German. Even when he was between fifty and sixty years of age, his talents for acquiring languages enabled him to master the first principles of any language, to which he applied his mind, in the course of three or four months. During the few months he was in Cafferland, he drew up a rough sketch of a grammar of the Caffer language, and formed a vocabulary of about eight hundred words.

“His attainments in science were equal to his acquirements in literature. Such was his skill in mathematics, that he was regarded, when in the army, as a man likely to improve the art of fortification, and the military tactics of

his country. The proficiency he had made in medicine, and his reputation as a physician in Holland, have been already noticed; and his knowledge of chemistry, natural history, comparative anatomy, and botany, would have enabled him to have done honour to a professorship in any one of those sciences, in any of the universities in Europe.

“In contemplating the situation of Vanderkemp, as a missionary in Africa, we are justified in adopting the words of Professor Krom, in a preface written by that gentleman, to one of the doctor’s theological works, published in Germany:—‘How powerful must have been the conviction of Dr. Vanderkemp’s mind of the truth and divine origin of the doctrines of the Bible; how deeply must such a mind have been penetrated with the most cordial love to the cause of our blessed Redeemer!’

“However we may differ from him in some of his opinions; whatever notion we may form of some of his peculiarities, now ‘that death has set his seal upon his character, and placed it beyond the reach of fortune,’ it will be admitted by every one whose mind has been elevated by an enlarged benevolence, that such a sacrifice of personal comfort, such a consecration of talents, of literature, and of science, as is exhibited in the example before us, in an attempt to evangelize, to civilize, and to elevate one of the most oppressed and degraded classes of human beings, furnishes one of the most sublime spectacles upon earth.

“It may be remarked by some, that Africa was not a sphere sufficiently extensive for such great and varied attainments: but when we consider how much the aborigines of that country wanted, at that time, a protector; and reflect upon the courage, the zeal, the incorruptible integrity, and the weight of character attached to Dr. Vanderkemp, we must admire the wisdom of providence in directing his attention to this sphere of action. He is entitled to the praise of pure disinterestedness, a quality of great importance in a missionary. To the missionaries who were his fellow labourers, he was a father and an adviser. His history in Africa furnishes sufficient proofs of his zeal and his devotedness to the great objects of his mission; but it is to his exertions in the cause of the oppressed aborigines that we are to look for the grandeur of his character, and the most efficient part of his services.

“Others may have been more successful than even Vanderkemp in conveying the elementary parts of instruction to the savages under their care; and it was less matter of surprise to find him occasionally invigorating his mind with the abstruse studies, to which he had been formerly accustomed, than to observe him, so frequently as he was to be seen, with the alphabet in his hand, teaching the savages their letters; but some of the missionaries, who were in Africa at that time, who supposed he paid too much attention to his studies and his books, have since admitted that it was owing to his persevering and vigorous efforts, that they had been allowed to continue their labours, and that unmitigated slavery is not now the law of the land.

“In a country where slavery obtains, the mind cannot remain long in a state of neutrality. By a residence in such a country, a stranger from Europe will either have his aversion to the slave system increased, or that aversion will gradually subside, and his sympathies for the slave will at last be exchanged, perhaps imperceptibly to himself, for the views and feelings of the master. This assimilation to the feelings of the slave-holder, is a process which is often completed, before the person, under the deteriorating influence by which it is carried on, is aware of the change. Men, without a high degree of religious and moral principle, may be brought by habit and familiarity to tolerate any thing. ‘When pains, punishments, torture, and death are made the business of mankind, compassion, the joint associate of the heart, is driven from its place, and the eye, accustomed to continual cruelty, can behold it without offence.’ If these remarks give a correct view of the effect of a familiarity with the natural evils of slavery, they are still more applicable to the influence of the habitual view of its demoralizing tendency—the most objectionable, revolting, and yet infectious part of the system.

“We are not acquainted with the abstract views entertained by Dr. Vanderkemp on this question previous to his arrival in South Africa, but the features under which the subject was presented to him when he became a missionary, produced an effect upon his mind which gave rise to one of the most objectionable actions of his whole life, and which gave currency to calumnies circulated against him by his enemies, which otherwise would have never gained credit beyond the circle in which they had originated. During the first years of his residence in South Africa, he redeemed out of his own private property, seven slaves; and one of these he married,—from a sympathy, I firmly believe, with the degraded condition of that class of people, and from a mistaken notion that he would, by that means, elevate them. His benevolence in this instance is more to be admired than his knowledge of human nature, and he lived to see and regret his mistake.

“And here I may remark, that from the flexibility of the human mind, easily to accommodate itself to its circumstances, arises one of the greatest dangers missionaries have to encounter among uncivilized tribes; and they require all the aid to be derived from the society of cultivated females to preserve unbroken the habits formerly acquired in the intercourse of civilized life.

“Dr. Vanderkemp had faults: his mind was not cast in the common mould; but ‘the front of his offending’ in the eyes of the colonists was, his hatred of oppression, and his uncompromising zeal for the cause of the oppressed. But for this, every thing else would have been easily forgiven; and he would have been as much the object of admiration among the abettors of oppression as he was the subject of their aversion and hatred.”

“On the arrival of the deputation of the London Missionary Society, in South Africa, of which I was a member, the clamour against Dr. Vander-



kemp was so loud, and so universal,—the stories circulated respecting him, to the prejudice of his character, were so numerous, so minute in their details, and appeared to be so well authenticated, that I was above eighteen months in the colony before the unfavourable impression made upon my own mind was removed. The missionaries, to whom I was introduced on my first arrival in the colony, were not personally acquainted with him; and they had listened to the reports and imbibed the prejudices of his enemies. One or two well-meaning individuals, whom I afterwards met, who had some slight acquaintance with him, thought him a good man, and vindicated him against the calumnies circulated against him, but they could not sympathise with him in his zeal for the rights of the Hottentots.”

“Dr. Vanderkemp’s mind was truly independent in all its movements. He might occasionally assume too high ground, when called upon to vindicate the Hottentots: his letters to the governor, and other constituted authorities of the colony, might have too much sharpness in them; but it may be urged in his defence that his provocations were great; that this very fault arose from his instinctive abhorrence of injustice and oppression; and that while the warmth of his benevolent zeal occasionally involved him in trouble, it has had the happiest influence in protecting the Hottentots against much suffering, which they must have otherwise endured, and has laid the foundation of those civil liberties which it is to be hoped will be speedily secured to them.”

“Servant of God, well done; well hast thou fought  
The better fight, who single hast maintained,  
Against revolted multitudes, the cause  
Of Truth, in word mightier than they in arms;  
And for the testimony of truth hast borne  
Universal reproach, far worse to bear  
Than violence; for this was all thy care,  
To stand approv’d in sight of God, though worlds  
Judg’d thee perverse.”—MILTON.

(*To be continued.*)



[COMMUNICATED.]

## **Arts of Slave Traders.**

It was to be expected from a set of ruffians, who not only violate the sacred rights of our race, as well as the dearest ties of consanguinity; not only outrage the feelings and sentiments of civilized and christian people; but bid defiance to the laws of God and man, and carry on their work of crime and cruelty in full view of the gibbet and the future judgments of an avenging

God, that *they* would make use of every artifice, and every species of deceit, to accomplish in any way their infamous purposes. But it is matter of surprise and grief, that men of principle, who stand in the attitude of guides and instructors to christian communities, should be gulled by their specious fictions, and extensively aid them to forward their evil devices. Unfavourable reports, vague and to a great extent unfounded, with regard to Liberia and Sierra Leone, the two strong holds of freedom and religion in Western Africa, have from time to time gone forth, and have been carried, by the public journals, without comment, into every corner of Christendom, to damp and darken the rising light of Africa; while at the same time, well-authenticated and highly important facts, that would have disarmed such bantlings of crime and carelessness, have been entombed in the columns of two or three only of these distributors of general intelligence. This is a fact which the judgment and conscience of editors can best explain, and for which it is pleasant to see they are beginning to make an atonement.

It has been confidently affirmed that the British were about to abandon Sierra Leone, a colony of many years standing, and with many thousands of inhabitants, because they have at length discovered that its climate is exceedingly unhealthy; and in proof of this it was stated, what is doubtless true, that they had removed their Court of Mixed Commission to Fernando Po, an island in the Gulf of Guinea. But it happens that this region is the principal field of the slave-trade, where the Court of Mixed Commission can perform their duties with the greatest facility.

Another report stated that Sierra Leone was a pestilential *swamp*, though its very name signifies *the Mountain of the Lioness*; that its grave-yards at the time, were daily filled with the dead; though we were not told what was done with the *yard full* that were buried there on each day preceding; and in making out the mutilated details of this fearful account, the names of deceased white people were given, to the number of less than half a dozen. Perhaps the number of coloured victims was not given, because, forsooth, it might appear incredible.

It is said the yellow fever has been raging there the past season. And so at New Orleans it rages almost every year; and in

all probability, the sacrifice of human life is, on the whole, greater there than at Sierra Leone. And yet no one has ever dreamed that New Orleans ought to be abandoned. And why? Because there the risk is run for the sake of money. Satan and his servants make an uproar about danger and death, only when their own interests are assailed, or the cause of religion and humanity is promoted. The world is indeed disgraced, if infinite motives can be so easily outweighed by the love of gold.

During the past season, Liberia too has been quite unhealthy. Twenty-six of the last company of emigrants have died. This, for Liberia, is a very remarkable mortality. Still the discredit thrown upon it by its enemies, is undeserved; for it yet continues, and there is no reason apparent why it should not always continue, an animating and indisputable fact, that it flourishes far more, with much less expense of life and treasure, than the colonies, hitherto unrivalled, of Plymouth and of Jamestown.

Since the commencement of the colony, it is believed, that the life of less than one white person in a year has been sacrificed, of those who went out for the promotion of its interests. Can this be said of a single slave vessel that has been in the practice of trading on the coast? Such as these, it is true, can better be spared. But it is incredible that the most magnanimous motives should not inspire at least as much moral courage, as the base and thievish incitements of the slave-trade. Scarcely enough, however, has yet been manifested, to save professions of benevolence from the reproach of hypocrisy. And in the sacrifice of the lives of Africans, doubtless the Colony is often surpassed by a single slave-ship.

The above remarks are made merely as an introduction to an extract from the Twenty-first Report of the Directors of the African Institution in Great Britain, which they will, in some measure, serve to illustrate.

“In the midst of the general gloom which covers the face of this quarter of the globe, [Africa,] there is one district of coast, from which a better day promises to dawn on Africa. The colony of Sierra Leone, in common with all similar establishments, has indeed had to struggle with danger and difficulties. From peculiar circumstances, it has not only had more than its full share of these to contend against, but it has had to encounter, throughout the whole course of its existence, a bitter and unsparing hostility, ever

aiming to bring into discredit the humane and liberal principles which gave it birth. It has been felt, and not perhaps without reason, that a colony of Negroes, blessed with free institutions, instructed civilized and prosperous, living in peace and subordination, and exhibiting in their conduct the charities of Social, and even of Christian life; while they creditably discharge their duties as members of a civil society, by turns administering and obeying laws which equally protect the rights of all, and know no distinction of class and colour;—it has been naturally felt, that an establishment of this kind, if once constructed and matured, would shake to its foundation the fabric of African Slavery. It cannot therefore appear extraordinary, to any who know the influence of self-interest and prejudice combined, that the utmost pains should have been systematically taken to malign this colony, and to deprive it of the public favour and countenance. But, as a parliamentary inquiry will probably take place in no long time, which will serve to dissipate all illusions on the subject, it is now the less necessary to enter upon it. It is obvious, that in the case of a colony mainly composed, as Sierra Leone is, of the very rudest and most intractable human materials which could be collected into a social union—of persons drawn from the most remote points of the African coast and continent; speaking probably fifty different languages; disembarked there in a state of absolute nakedness, after having been shut up for months in the holds of slave-ships, sunk to a level almost below the brute:—it is obvious, that in the case of a colony constructed of such materials, just emerging, in their different degrees, from a state of the very lowest debasement both of body and mind, the ingenuity of an enemy may find much, especially when addressing an uninformed audience, to give an edge to his calumnies, and to heighten the discredit and contempt which it is his object to excite. But the candid and discriminating reasoner will not be deluded by such arts; and he will form his estimate of the value, and of the progress of such an establishment, not by applying to it the standard of European civilization, but by viewing it in contrast with the depth of the debasement of the African while crossing the Desert in chains, or while crowded into his floating dungeon of disease and death.

“But, whatever may be the discredit which the laborious and inveterate hostility of some persons may have succeeded in attaching to this colony in the public opinion of England, it is most certain that it is viewed with no such unfavourable eyes by the surrounding tribes. They have better learnt to appreciate the blessings and immunities to be enjoyed under its protection, as contrasted with the wretchedness and insecurity which prevail within the sphere of the Slave Trade.

“The Directors, in the last Report, announced the voluntary cession, by the native chiefs of the Sherbro’ district, of about a hundred miles of coast adjoining the colony southward—a cession made on the express ground of their desiring to be shielded from the ravages of the Slave Trade.

“Measures have been taken to maintain that exclusion of the Slave Trade from this line of coast, which had been effected by General Turner; and which, it is hoped, that nothing will occur to impede. Similar cessions might have been obtained to the northward of the colony, had the policy of our Government permitted the local authorities to fall in with the desire of the natives to have the shield of British protection thrown over them. A large district, however, to the north-east of the colony, comprising the banks of Port Logo, a branch of the River Sierra Leone, has been incorporated with the British possessions; and a great step in advance has thus been made towards a more free communication with the countries bordering on the Niger. A considerable cession of territory has also been negotiated in the Gambia, at the mouth and on the north bank of that noble river, comprehending a great part of the kingdom of Barra.”



## “Proceedings

*On the Formation of the New York State Colonization Society.”*

This is a publication for which we have long and anxiously waited. Knowing the talent and interest that were manifest at the formation of that Society, we had no doubt that they were well calculated to give new light and impulse to the cause of Africa. In this we are not disappointed. The sketch of the proceedings, of Mr. Smith’s address, and the address of the Managers to the public, show that they were worthy of the high character of the individuals concerned, and of the state that claims them as her citizens. Of these, however, there is only a sketch. The Address of Dr. Nott, President of Union College, is published entire; and to this we shall for the present chiefly direct our attention.

Dr. Nott waives entirely the motives which might have led to the formation of the National Colonization Society, and very justly rests its present claims to public patronage, only on its promise of future benefits. We are confident that the opinions of one so distinguished for his intelligence, learning, and piety, will receive general attention. The great questions, which he proposes for decision, are, “Is the plan practicable? and if practicable, expedient?”

“Is it then practicable? Here doubtless, experience is the wisest counsellor and the safest guide. What has been done, and done often, can

again be done. How stands the balance of probabilities, in the ascertained issues of kindred enterprises, as they are found recorded on the pages of authentic history?

But, not to insist on this; to say nothing of Greece civilized by colonies from Egypt; of Italy, by colonies from Greece; and of Europe, by colonies from Italy; the rising and the risen republics of America stand forth before our eyes, impressive monuments of what colonization can effect in climes more remote, and amid circumstances less auspicious, than even distant and tropical Africa now presents.

“Much must, doubtless, be done and suffered, before the colony at Montserado will have attained the same celebrity. Nor is it to be concealed that much has already been done and suffered, in creating and merely sustaining it in being. Its history is brief, and, till lately, it has been a history of woes. Houseless and unsheltered, the colonists have had to contend with heat and rain, and war and pestilence. And yet, from these combined causes, the amount of suffering and the waste of life, have been less at Montserado than at Plymouth, that sacred locality where the pilgrims landed, and to which the children of the pilgrims from their ten thousand places of joyous habitations, still look back with so many tender and grateful recollections. Ah! had those pioneers of civilization, in this new world, a moiety of whose numbers perished during the rigors of the first New-England winter, been disheartened; or, had those friends, whence succors were derived, been disheartened; how different had been the fame acquired for themselves—how different the inheritance bequeathed to their children? Neither the climate nor the natives of Africa are so terrible to the Negro now, as the climate and the natives of New-England were to the Britain then.

“That the millions of Africa, especially that part of it with which this discussion is concerned, are ignorant, degraded, and wretched, needs no proof. And are they to continue thus for ever? Not surely, if revelation be true, and God merciful. But how is a change in their condition to be produced? We have heard of nations sinking into barbarism by their own inertia, but never of their having thus arisen therefrom. So far as history reaches, at least, barbarians have been civilized, and only civilized by the influence of those who were not barbarians. In effecting the elevation of a degraded nation, a nation already elevated supplies to the philanthropist what Archimedes wanted—a fulcrum on which to plant his lever, that he might raise the world.

“It is not by legal arguments, or penal statutes, or armed ships, that the slave trade can be prevented. Almost every power in Christendom has denounced it. It has been declared felony—it has been declared piracy; and the fleets of Britain and America have been commissioned to drive it from the ocean. Still, in defiance of all this array of legislation and of armament, slave ships ride triumphant on the ocean; and in these floating caverns, less terrible only than the caverns which demons occupy, from six-

ty to eighty thousand wretches,\* received pinioned from the coast of Africa, are borne annually away to slavery or death. Of these wretches a frightful number are, with an audacity that amazes, landed and disposed of within the jurisdiction of this republic.

“It is not by the blockade of her ports, but by the circumvallation of her coasts, that Africa can be shielded against either the insinuation or the assault of that remorseless passion, the *“sacra fames auri;”* that has for centuries rendered her habitations insecure, and her fields desolate. To afford an adequate protection, a mighty barrier must every where be raised between the oppressor and the oppressed; a barrier neither of wood-work, nor of masonry, but of muscle and sinew: a muscle and sinew that is incompatible with slavery, and can neither be bought nor sold.

“This frightful scourge of Africa has ceased in the vicinity of Sierra Leone. It will soon have ceased at Montserado, as it will elsewhere, as other colonies are planted, and other watch-towers of freedom arise.

“The points thus defended along the coast, will be so many radiant points to the interior. And thus those humble and noiseless emigrants, who are now erecting their dwellings, and enclosing their fields, and who have already given to the little locality they occupy an air of cleanliness and comfort, as novel as delightful in that desert region, may be founding, imperceptibly, an empire destined to be the centre of an enduring and mighty influence: an influence that shall change the habitudes of man as well as the aspect of nature; and that shall one day be felt alike along the valleys of the Senegal and the Nile, and from the ridge of Lupata to the foot of Atlas. Who knows that the landing at the Cape of Montserado, will not be as pregnant of consequences as that at the rock of Plymouth? Or that Africa thus excited, will not, centuries hence, exhibit as busy an industry, send forth as rich a commerce, and raise as joyful and as holy a note of praise, as either America or Europe?

“But it is not Africa alone that is to be affected by the destiny of Africa. The empire of man is one; and all its provinces are related. By intercourse a reciprocity of benefits is conferred. Nor to either will the measure of national prosperity be full, till the resources of all have been developed.

“But what does Africa contribute to the science, or the virtue, or even the wealth of nations?

“There are individual houses in London, the failure of which would affect the prosperity of millions, and produce a train of evils that would be felt on both the continents; but if the whole of Western and Southern Africa were sunk, the arts, the science, and the commerce of the world would remain untouched: nor would the space thus occupied, vast as it is, be missed, unless as a beacon, by the mariner as he crossed the ocean.

“This is not mere idle speculation. There has been exported from Sierra Leone alone, in a single year, a greater amount of value, since the ab-

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\* This estimate is doubtless far too small.

olition of the slave trade, than was exported in the same period, from the whole Western coast of Africa anterior to that event. What then might not be expected, if the change of condition that has taken place in this one locality, were to become universal? Were the slave trade every where abolished, and the African race for ever relieved from the paralyzing apprehension of treachery and violence; were Africa throughout regenerated, and arts and science, and religion introduced through all the *terra incognita* of her vast interior; were her soil cultivated, her mines worked, her water-power rendered productive, and the agency of wind and steam employed in her work-shops, and on her waters; were her gold and her ivory, her sandal-wood and her gums, her dyes and her drugs, with all the rich and the varied produce of her now forsaken fields, and impenetrable forests, poured down along the many tributary streams into the Nile, the Niger, the Senegal and the Gambia, and thence sent forward in rich abundance to the mart of nations; what a vast accession would be made to the comfort and riches, and what an impulse given to the enterprise and commerce of the world! Could such a result be produced by the expenditure of millions, economy, as well as philanthropy, would sanction the expenditure.

“But if it would be policy in other nations to encourage colonization in Africa, how much more so in us? Many and great as were the blessings conferred by our national independence, there exists among us one class on whom that event has conferred no benefits. I allude to our citizens of colour. Citizens whom freedom has rendered only more wretched and debased.

“Hence, and notwithstanding all the immunities and privileges that legal enactments could confer, they remain among us an out-cast and isolated race; shunned at least, if not contemned and despised. . . . All the incentives to exertion and enterprise are removed from them; all the avenues to wealth and honor are barred against them. Degraded themselves, they degrade the very labor which they perform; and hence it is that temperance and honesty are well nigh banished from the vocation which they follow. And yet it is not inferiority of faculties, but the force of condition, that has produced this degradation.

“With us they have been degraded by slavery, and still further degraded by the mockery of nominal freedom. We have endeavored, but endeavored in vain, to restore them either to self-respect, or to the respect of others. It is not our fault that we have failed; it is not theirs. It has resulted from a cause over which neither they, nor we, can ever have control. Here, therefore, they must be forever debased: more than this, they must be for ever useless; more even than this, they must be for ever a nuisance, from which it were a blessing for society to be rid. And yet they, and they only, are qualified for colonizing Africa. Africa is their country. In color, in constitution, in habitude, they are suited to its climate. There they may be blessed, and be a blessing. Here they can be neither.



Benevolence, patriotism, self-interest, all pronounce alike on the expediency of their removing. Let us then in mercy to them, in mercy to ourselves, and in mercy to Africa, favor and facilitate their removal."

Dr. Nott, next alludes to the fact, that the whole people of this country were implicated in the guilt of the slave trade; and are therefore liable to be affected by its ultimate evils: that the difference between the south and north is owing to circumstances and not to virtue: that if the south received stolen men, the north was especially engaged in the still more odious practice of stealing them: that on Virginia at least they were forced contrary to her will, and against her remonstrance: that all history teaches us that absolute power over our fellow men will be abused: that they are *in fact* deprived of personal and civil rights: that the system is the source of continual apprehensions; adverse to virtue; a calamity to the state, especially by preventing the increase of freemen; dangerous in prospect, as at the present rate of increase the number will amount to 24,000,000 at the close of this century; inconsistent with the leading and self-evident principle of our independence; liable to be turned against us by the arts of foreign enemies: that the close of the system is indicated by the progress of society: that in all enlightened countries it is either terminated, or waning to extinction: that not only is it at variance with the spirit of our government, our religious principles, our moral feelings, our habits of thought and action, but in reality freedom in this country is making continual inroads upon it, while by the rise of kindred republics in Spanish America, it has, through vast and contiguous territories, suddenly ceased to exist: that this forward movement of society cannot be resisted: that the slave trade was sanctioned by ecclesiastical authority, unassailed and without an enemy, interwoven with the policy and intrenched in the prepossessions of every christian nation; and yet a few despised names in Britain set those means in motion which have already shaken the system to its base, changed the current of feeling throughout the world, caused the system to be denounced by almost every christian nation, and the slave, of whatever cast or colour, to be free, the moment he steps on the soil of Britain.

Dr. Nott observes, "our Brethren of the South, have the sympathies, the same moral sentiments, the same love of liberty as

ourselves. By them as by us, slavery is felt to be an evil, a hindrance to our prosperity, and a blot upon our character. But it was in being when they were born and has been forced upon them by a previous generation.”

His remarks go to show that the people of this country are rapidly marshalling into two great parties,—or rather assimilating into one, by which the system will at present be tolerated, for the very purpose of removing it hereafter, in a safe, sure and effectual manner. He thus ends his lucid, powerful and very eloquent address.

“But the solemn question here arises—in what condition will this momentous change place us? The freed men of other countries have long since disappeared, having been amalgamated in the general mass. Here there can be no amalgamation. Our manumitted bondmen have remained already to the third and fourth, as they will to the thousandth, generation—a distinct, a degraded, and a wretched race. When therefore the fetters, whether gradually or suddenly, shall be stricken off, and stricken off they will be, from those accumulating millions yet to be born in bondage, it is evident that this land, unless some outlet be provided, will be flooded with a population as useless as it will be wretched; a population which, with every increase, will detract from our strength, and only add to our numbers, our pauperism and our crimes. Whether bond or free, their presence will be for ever a calamity. Why then, in the name of God, should we hesitate to encourage their departure? It is as wise, as merciful to send back to Africa, as citizens, those sons of hers, whom, as slaves and in chains, we have to our injury borne from thence.

“The existence of this race among us; a race that can neither share our blessings nor incorporate in our society, is already felt to be a curse; and though the only curse entailed on us, if left to take its course, it will become the greatest that could befall the nation.

“Shall we then cling to it, and by refusing the timely expedient now offered for deliverance, retain and foster the alien enemies till they have multiplied into such greater numbers, and risen into such mightier consequence as will for ever bar the possibility of their departure, and by barring it, bar also the possibility of fulfilling our own high destiny? As yet it requires only to provide an asylum, and the means of reaching it, to mitigate, if not entirely to remove, this alarming evil. The self-interest and the benevolence of masters will do the rest. Many will eventually be colonized, and all manumitted.

“Encouraged by the prospect which the measures of this society have opened, the process of giving freedom to their bondmen has already commenced among the planters of the south. If the way be kept open it will progress; and progress as fast as prudence and humanity would dictate.

And thus the time may yet arrive when a second and a finished independence shall be achieved, nor print of vassal footsteps defile our soul, nor chain be worn beneath our sun of freedom!"



## Latest from Liberia.

We now offer to the public the intelligence received by the Brig "Liberia" from the African Colony. The feeble health of the Colonial Agent, Dr. Mechlin, compelled him to leave untouched many subjects upon which we may in future hope to receive his opinions. We omit only such parts of his communications as are of less general interest and importance. We trust his health will soon be restored, and that he will have strength to fulfil as energetically and successfully as he may desire, the arduous, but most interesting duties of his station. We find nothing in these despatches which should diminish our confidence in the practicableness and utility of the enterprise which commands our humble efforts. The unusually large number of deaths among the emigrants by the *Harriet* is indeed to be regretted, but he must utterly discredit history, who professes to discern in this mortality, more than one of those calamities occasionally to be expected in the prosecution of every scheme of colonization. That difficulties are to be encountered and sufferings endured, by the early emigrants to a barbarous shore, is to be expected; and thus far we have found individuals whose spirits feared not these, but deemed them nothingness, compared with the surpassing object of Africa's redemption. We cannot look around us, without feeling that for Americans to question the wisdom of our scheme, is as if the merchant should condemn the measures which brought him his wealth, or the illustrious look contemptuously upon the plans and efforts which covered him with glory.

LIBERIA, AUGUST 31, 1829.

GENTLEMEN:—In my communication of the 6th May, a copy of which I had the honour to transmit to you by the Brig *Hope*, I mentioned that a native war was then raging in our immediate vicinity, and that, in consequence of being threatened with an attack, we had made every preparation to receive the enemy. A few days after the sailing of the vessel that con-

veyed my letter, they retired to their own country, carrying with them about 250 slaves; all of which King Boatswain has doubtless ere this disposed of to the traders at the Gallenas, which is now the principal slave-market on the Western coast of Africa.

The consequences of this incursion will, I fear, shortly be manifested in this Colony, in the difficulty of procuring rice and cassada from the natives in our neighbourhood, who have been prevented from getting their crops on the ground by the enemy remaining so long in their country; and this, as I formerly remarked, is the source whence a great portion of the colonists draw their provisions during the rainy season; could the extensive slave factories at the Gallenas once be broken up, all inducements to make these predatory excursions would be done away with; but this cannot be effected without keeping a squadron of light armed vessels constantly on the coast, to prevent any slaves from being carried off in the slave vessels, which are always on the look out for an opportunity to take in a cargo, and make their escape to Brazil or Cuba.

The Factory at Grand Bassa, which, in one of my former communications, I noticed as being about to be discontinued, I have determined to go on with, as I find it is the means of our exercising a considerable influence over a large tract of country; and moreover, the chiefs have petitioned me not to remove the trade from them; promising, if I would continue the factory, to pay their debts, and have nothing to do with the slave trade, nor permit any slaves to be sold in their territory. Influenced by these considerations, I have determined to keep it in operation, and have accordingly removed the former factor, whose misconduct occasioned much embarrassment, and in his place have appointed Mr. Benson, who originally established it under Mr. Ashmun, and in whose integrity and abilities the utmost reliance can be placed. Mr. Benson had previously the charge of the Junk Factory; his place is supplied by Mr. J. Shaw, a very enterprising and trust-worthy man, and in every respect entitled to the confidence of the agency. As soon as the rains have ceased, I intend visiting Grand Bassa, to convene the chiefs, and make such arrangements with them, as will establish matters upon a more sure foundation, and prevent in future, any infraction of the existing treaty.

I am happy to have it in my power to state that the settlement at Millsburg is in the most flourishing condition; all the survivors of the original company have complied with the terms of their charter, and are now entitled to their deeds, which shall be granted them forthwith. They complain that their present portion of land is entirely too limited for farming purposes, merely answering as market gardens; and have petitioned for a further grant of land to enable them to carry on their agricultural operations more extensively: they ask for 150 acres more, each, so that they might raise large crops of Indian corn and rice, as well as make some experiments in the cultivation of sugar and indigo; they think they could, if encouraged, place the Colony above want in future, and have sufficient left,

not only to supply the vessels that resort to our harbour, but also export a considerable quantity to Sierra Leone, where provisions are often very scarce in the rainy season. I did not think myself authorized to grant their petition without first consulting the Board, and shall wait for advice before I act in this affair.

The emigrants who arrived here in the Ship *Harriet* have all had their lands assigned them, and some have commenced clearing and building on their town lots; notwithstanding the inclemency of the season, the lands of such as were located at Caldwell, were surveyed and apportioned, and many have fine crops of cassada, rice, &c. now growing, so that I have great hopes they will, ere long, cease to need any assistance from the Society.

I have now the unpleasant task of announcing to the Board the death of Prince *Abduhl Rahhahman*; he landed here from the Ship *Harriet*, in good health, but shortly after his arrival was attacked with the coast fever; he however soon recovered, and, until the latter part of June, continued to enjoy excellent health; he was then attacked with a diarrhœa, for which he neglected to apply for aid until it had proceeded too far to be under the control of medicine. He died on the 6th of July. In the death of this individual, the Colony has sustained a great loss; for it was his intention to visit his native country, and remain there until he could raise funds to liberate his children; he was then to return and reside in the Colony, after having made arrangements for opening a direct communication from his own country to this place, so as to divert at least a portion of the trade from Sierra Leone into this channel. All persons who have any acquaintance with the *Foolahs*, represent their country to be extremely rich; that it abounds in gold, is demonstrated by the immense quantities of that metal brought down by the caravans to Sierra Leone, and the factorics on the rivers *Pongas* and *Nunez*. Had Prince succeeded in effecting so desirable an object, this place would have been one of the most important, in a commercial point of view, on the whole Western Coast of this continent; but I am still in hopes, though deprived of his valuable assistance, to open a direct communication with *Footah Jallou*.

*Mr. Hollinger*, an enterprising citizen of this place, together with the son of *Mr. F. Lewis*, late of Washington, returned on the 29th of June, from a trading excursion to *Bo Poro*, the capital of *King Boatswain's* dominions.— They represent him as being a warm friend to the Colony, and desirous of maintaining the amicable relations at present subsisting between us. *Mr. H.* is the bearer of a proposal from *Boatswain* respecting the establishment of a Factory at his town. As regards the degree of confidence to be reposed in him, they say he is more to be trusted than any of the African Chiefs we have had any communication with, and that they consider him as entitled to our confidence. He has offered to send down people to assist in transporting the goods, should I conclude to erect a factory.

There is one important advantage the Society will gain by accepting his

offer; and that is, if the trade to Bo Poro is once permanently established, we will open to ourselves a communication with the country immediately beyond, which abounds in gold, and whence great quantities are carried to Sierra Leone. This country is the only one, from the best information I can obtain, that intervenes between Boatswain and Footah Jallou, which has been represented to me as distant from this colony, about 12 or 16 days journey. Such being the case, I have no doubt but that in one or two years, we would open a trade with that country, the advantages of which the Board are doubtless fully able to appreciate.

The distance from this place to Bo Poro, is about 140 or 150 miles, in a N. E. direction, and is usually travelled in four or five days, but for the transportation of goods, it would be much better to have them conveyed up the St. Paul's River in boats as far as the falls, a short distance above Millsburg, where there would be a short portage, after which they could be re-embarked, and conveyed up the river to a point more in the vicinity of Bo Poro, whence Boatswain's people could easily transport them to the factory.

The fortifications which I mentioned in one of my late communications as being nearly completed, I have been compelled to abandon until after the rains; the walls have been covered in, to prevent their being injured by the heavy showers, and the workmen paid off and discharged—but as soon as the season admits of it, the work will be resumed unless I receive instructions to the contrary.

The health of the Colony never was better than it is at present; we have but four or five cases of sickness, and those among the old settlers; all the survivors of those who came out in the Harriet are now able to resume their occupations. Every one of them without exception, had the fever, though generally very slightly, when compared with the sufferings of the former emigrants; this, I think, was in a great measure owing to their being well sheltered, and having timely medical aid, as well as many of those comforts which the others could not obtain.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

J. MECHLIN, JR.

To the Secretary of the Society, Dr. Mechlin writes—

Since I addressed you by the Harriet, mentioning the loss of our friend Dr. Randall, I have been down with a second and third attack of the fever, and have had repeated attacks of simple quotidian intermitten; my health at this moment is very much impaired; the debilitated state in which the fever left me, in a great measure continuing.

I have transmitted to the Board of Managers by this opportunity, a list of deaths, that have occurred at this place since September 1st, 1828, and have designated those (twenty-six in number) belonging to the late expedition. Many of those who arrived in the Harriet owe their death to in-

prudent exposure during convalescence, and a free indulgence in the fruits of the place, particularly the pine-apple; than which nothing can be more deleterious; the oldest settlers not being able to use it freely without feeling its ill effects.

It gives me great pleasure to state, that the colonial affairs are in a prosperous condition; particularly our farming establishments at Millsburg; the crops this year will be greater by two thirds than those of the preceding. As it is upon our agriculture, that the prosperity of the colony must ultimately depend, I have granted every indulgence to the Millsburg settlers that I thought would tend to the promotion of their welfare, and encourage them to prosecute their farming operations with spirit. A family by the name of Richardson, who arrived here with the last emigration, have been located there by their own desire, and have already several acres in cultivation, with flourishing crops of rice and cassada; the same may be said of the Caldwell settlement, and of the late emigrants who have been settled there.

I found on attempting to lay off the lots for the emigrants who lately arrived, that there had been, in many instances, deviations from the original survey; the houses, in some places, projecting into the street, and in others, having been built partly on the adjoining unoccupied lots. To have this evil corrected while it is still practicable, I was induced to appoint Mr. Joseph Shephard surveyor for the colony; he is a man in every way well calculated to do credit to the station; his compensation will be derived from the fees of office, and these are proportioned to the circumstances of the colonists; he will shortly commence a resurvey of the whole town, and correct all errors that have occurred; the farm lands adjoining the town will also be surveyed, and land-marks placed. Our little town is rapidly increasing: several new substantial buildings have been put up within two months, and others are in progress; so that if nothing intervenes to prevent it, we will present, in one or two years, quite a respectable appearance.

The military force of the Colony having been considerably augmented, it appeared proper that the senior officer should be of a higher grade than that of Captain. I have accordingly promoted James C. Barbour to the rank of Major, commanding the military forces of Liberia; he is one who takes a pride in such matters, and will, I think, discharge the duties of the office with credit to himself, and no doubt have great influence in keeping up the military spirit of the colonists, which, I am sorry to say, was rapidly declining.

You requested in your letter to Dr. Randall, to be informed concerning Miss Mercer's people. Of the number that arrived in the Harriet, two died; one, a child of a woman named Jennings; the other, an adult, by the name of Thomas Carroll; the remainder enjoy good health, and will, no doubt, do well, as soon as the season admits of their obtaining employment. At present, scarcely any thing like business is carried on.

Enclosed, you have the returns of our late election, and the appointments made by me for the ensuing year. The election this year was conducted in a manner highly creditable to the inhabitants, although it was very warmly contested. Indeed it reminded me of the United States, both as regards the violence of party spirit exhibited there on similar occasions, and the implicit obedience to the will of the majority after the result was made known.

Your obedient servant,

J. MECHLIN, JR.



## Swiss Mission to Liberia.

For some account of the origin of this Mission, and of the spirit with which it was commenced, we refer our readers to the letter of the excellent Dr. Blumhardt, published in the Repository for February, 1828. The recent arrival at New York, of the Rev. Mr. Sessing, his wife, and three Missionary Brethren, prepared to enter with devoted hearts upon the field of christian labour in Africa, has been announced in most of our public papers. Those of our friends who will peruse the letter from Dr. Blumhardt, inserted in our number for March last, and that from Mr. Sessing in the same, will readily understand the causes which have brought these beloved friends of Christ and of Africa to our shores. Mr. Sessing, after a residence of fourteen months in Liberia, and among the natives of *Grand Bassa*, (a short distance to the South of Cape Montserado) was compelled to accompany his afflicted Brother, Mr. Hegele, to Switzerland. In reply to the inquiries of Dr. Blumhardt, contained in the letter to which we have just alluded, our Society had expressed the belief, that the interests of the Swiss Mission might, in various ways, be promoted, could those consecrated to its benevolent purposes, visit and confer with their christian Brethren in the United States. Nor have we had occasion since their arrival, to change our opinion. Indeed, the christian sympathy and liberality which have been evinced, have strikingly illustrated the strength and beauty of those principles which unite, by imperishable ties, all the members of the household of faith. No possessor of the christian spirit, can read without emotion, the following letter from Dr. Blumhardt, by which these Missionaries were introduced to our fellowship and christian love.



BASLE, SWITZERLAND, SEPT. 18, 1829.

Permit me, very dear Sir, to introduce to you and your Committee four of our dearly beloved Missionary Brethren, Messrs. Sessing, Dietschy, Buh-rer and Graner, with the wife of Mr. Sessing, who are going to Liberia as messengers of salvation, and who have been directed by our Missionary Society to make their passage to Africa by way of North America, with the view, not only to explain personally to you and to your Honourable Committee our sincere and warm feelings of Christian affection towards you and the sacred work of your hands, and to be the instruments of entering into a full and active communion of Christian fellowship and interests with your Society, but to make a modest trial, with your brotherly advice, if some of our and your Christian brethren in your States, under the blessing of God, might be united in an Auxiliary Society in behalf of their missionary exertions amongst the poor negro tribes in the neighborhood of your African Colony.

Our God and Saviour has pleased to try by truly heavy calamities even the first beginning of our work in Africa. Five of our dearly beloved brethren have been reduced in the first year to one, who is still struggling with trying difficulties from all sides; but we all are permitted by divine grace to say with St. Paul, we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; and we fully trust in the Lord, that by our dearly beloved brethren, though bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, yet the life also of Jesus will be made manifest in their body.

Our dear brethren intend to commence their work with the Bassa people, in the neighborhood of Liberia, whilst Mr. Dietschy, as agent of our Society in all external affairs and wants of our mission there, shall take his permanent abode in the missionary house in Monrovia, which our truly lamented friend Mr. Ashmun, was so kind as to leave by his will to our German Mission in Africa. There are many important questions respecting the labour and wants of our Missionaries and their connexion with you and your establishment in Africa, which we beg leave to make to you by our brethren, and which you will be so kind as to put into a full light. We are under the necessity to wish, that according to the provident view of our departed friend, Mr. Ashmun, and his full anticipations, our missionary station may be supported there in a series of years by their own means, and that we may be enabled by it to send out a greater number of fellow-labourers, to strengthen by moral powers the weak hands of this little beloved band of servants of Christ. Mr. Sessing intends to make provision of a small vessel for continuing the connexion of the Bassa Mission with the Colony, and you will be so kind as to assist him with your best advice, as we are obliged to limit such a purchase to a maximum of 400 dollars.

We are highly encouraged in this holy work in knowing that the prayers and the Christian sympathy and love of the American Israel are with it.

May God, the author of all grace, bless them all and you and your brethren in Switzerland.

Our most respectful and cordial affection to all the members of your Direction.

In behalf of the Evangelical Missionary Committee,

Your faithful and obliged friend,

TH. BLUMHARDT.

Rev. R. R. GURLEY,

Secretary of the Col. Society.

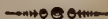
The Editor of this Journal was called to Philadelphia, just at the time of the arrival of three of these Swiss Brethren in that city. He had thus the privilege of soliciting (if it may be proper to use the word, where it was only necessary to state their circumstances and object to secure the kindest attentions) in their behalf, the friendly aid of those who are never found reluctant to contribute their exertions and their money to the cause of God. Many of the most respectable clergy having recommended a meeting, a large and crowded assembly convened in the church of the Rev. Dr. Ely, on Sabbath evening, the 15th inst. when, after an address in relation to the principles and progress and prospects of the Colonization Society, and the importance of efforts to enlighten Africa with the gospel, the Rev. Mr. Sessing (the only one of the Missionaries who speaks our language) stated, in a manner which strongly interested the feelings of all present, the origin, views and operations of the Basle Evangelic Missionary Institution, and communicated many important facts concerning the Mission in Africa, the influence of the Colony of Liberia, and the condition and dispositions of the African Tribes among whom it is intended to attempt the introduction of our holy religion. A handsome collection was then taken up in aid of the objects of these devoted men.

On Monday morning, Mr. Sessing proceeded to New York; and in the evening, attended a meeting in the Methodist Church in John Street, at which, says the Commercial Advertiser, "it was a pleasing sight to see assembled, Clergymen of all the Protestant denominations in this city." The Missionaries were introduced to the meeting by the Rev. Dr. Milnor, of St. George's Church. The Rev. Mr. Somers, of the South Baptist Church, addressed the throne of grace, after which the Rev. Mr. Van Vleck, of the Moravian Church, read a gratifying account of the rise, progress, and present condition of the Society at Basle,

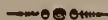
from whom these interesting strangers had received their commission. A letter was then read by the Rev. Dr. Cox, from the venerable Dr. Blumhardt, affectionately recommending these Missionary Brethren to the sympathies and fellowship of American Christians.

The Rev. Mr. McIlvane, of St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, the Rev. Doctor Cox, of the Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Mr. Lucky, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, severally addressed the meeting, after which the services of the evening were closed by the Rev. Dr. Matthews, of the Reformed Dutch Church.—About one hundred dollars were collected for the Missionaries.

The Rev. Mr. Sessing and Lady, and the Rev. Mr. Buhrer, have, probably, before this, embarked for Liberia. Messrs. Graner and Dietschy will remain in this country for a few weeks, to make arrangements which may prove of great importance to the Mission.



Many very interesting articles we are compelled to postpone for want of room; among others, the address of Rev. Mr. Sessing.



## Contributions

*To the American Colonization Society, from 21st October, to 26th November, 1829.*

Collection in congregation of Rev. J. M. Grant, of 1st parish, Hawley, Mass. per J. Langly, .....	\$6
By Rev. Ralph W. Gridley, of Williamstown, Mass. \$44	
Students in Williams College, 8—	52
By Rev. John Mills, Cabin John Church, Md. ...	5 18
By Ladies of Putnam, to make Rev. J. Culbertson, of said place, a Life Member, per Horace Nye, Esq. of Putnam, Ohio, ....	32
In Zion Church, Frederick co. Md. by Rev. John Armstrong, ..	5
By Wm. Pickering, Esq. in New Hampshire, .....	340
By Rev. H. B. Bascom, .....	200
By Rev. L. G. Bell, in Presbyterian Churches at Jonesboro' and Leesburg, East Tennessee, .....	6 7
By G. Ralston, Esq. of Philadelphia, .....	83
By Rev. Charles H. Page, in his Church, at Amherst C. H., Va. Matthew Carey, Esq. of Philadelphia—his 2d payment on plan of Gerrit Smith, Esq. ....	100
Needham L. Washington, Esq. ....	30
Hon. Hugh Mercer, of Fredericksburg, Va.—in part to constitute Mrs. Louisa Mercer a Life Member, .....	10
M. T. C. Wing, of Gambier, Ohio, (\$4 of which for Repository)	5
The proceeds of a young lady's knitting, .....	1

*Carried forward,* \$890 93

		<i>Brought forward,</i>	\$890 93
By J. T. Norton, Esq.—his 2d payment on plan of Gerrit Smith,			100
Auxy. Society of Ash co. Austinburg, Ohio, per J. Austin, Esq.			50
Auxy. Society of Waterford, New York, per F. K. Harris, Esq.			24 50
Auxy. Society of Parsippany, N. Jersey, per H. B. Cobb, Esq.			6
Collected by D. F. Newton, Fifes, Va.			
From Isaac O. Perkins, Goochland, Va. ....			1
Rev. James Fife, Va. ....			1
Rev. James Whary, Fifes, Va. ....			1
Donation from J. B. Lawrence, Salem, Mass. ....			1
Collected in Presbyterian Church, Lewes Town, Del. by Rev.			
T. B. Balch, ....			4
Donation by Rev. T. B. Balch, ....			1
Rev. Asa Cummings, of Portland, Maine, the subscriptions of			
Samuel Fischer, of Saco, for 5th vol. Af. Repository, \$2			
Rev. P. S. Ten Broek, of Portland, for Repository, ...			4
Nathaniel Dana, Esq. for Repository, ....			4
Levi Cram, Bangor, for 5th vol. Repository, ....			2
From Grove Wright, Esq. of New York, the following 4th July			12
collections:			
By Rev. B. King, Rockaway, New York, ....		\$5	
By Rev. M. Bradford, Sheffield, Massachusetts, ....		8	10
By Rev. Thomas Loursbary, Ovid, Seneca co. N. Y. .			12
By Rev. David Porter, Catskill, New York, ....			24
By Rev. Gordon Dorrance, Windsor, Mass. ....			9
By Rev. Daniel Crane, Chester, Orange co. N. York,			3
Donation by Dr. C. Wright, ....			1
By Rev. Robt. Hubbard, Danville Village, N. York,			4
Presbyterian & Baptist congregations, Franklin, N. Y.			8
Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Massachusetts, ....			10
From a Lady in Hanover, N. York, per S. Lamplin, .			1
By Rev. Wm. M. Curtis, New Orleans, Louisiana, ..			12
Rev. A. Wyrick, of Florida, ....			5
By Rev. B. Griffin, at Charlotte, Vermont, ...			1
By Rev. Cyrus Fox at the Highland Church, ....			4
From John Bradshaw, Esq. Shelbyville, Kentucky, .			49
By Rev. D. D. Vinne, at Stanford Church, N. York,			3
From the Presbyterian Church at Ludlowville, N. Y.			7
From a friend in Kentucky, for Prince, ....			4 50—
			172 48
			<u>\$1,264 92</u>

The following collections in Kentucky, should have been acknowledged as included in the amount remitted by the Rev. H. B. Bascom.

Shelbyville, \$120—Middletown, \$21—Louisville \$127—Bardstown \$5—Springfield \$18.50—Harrodsburgh \$33.50—Danville \$60—Lancaster \$22—Point Lick Church, Garrard county, \$18—Richmond 28.50—Grier's creek Church, Woodford county, 4th July collection by Rev. Richd. Corwine, \$12.75—Lexington \$14.50—Paris \$94—Millersburgh \$7—Carlisle \$14—Flemingsburgh \$73—Nicholasville \$21.

## Erratum.

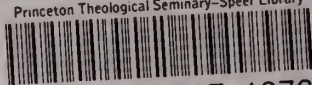
Simon Greenleaf, Esq. of Portland, Maine, has remitted \$30, which was improperly acknowledged in the Sept. No. p. 223, as from "C. Greenleaf."





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